THE VALIDITY AND SYNONYMY OF THE NAMES *BICYCLUS MARTIUS* FABRICIUS, 1793 AND *B. SANAOS* HEWITSON, 1866 (NYMPHALIDAE; SATYRINAE)

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Abstract

The taxon *Papilio martius* Fabricius, 1793 has erroneously been considered a *nomen dubium* since 1965. It is here resurrected as the valid name for *B. sanaos* Hewitson, 1866 in the combination *B. martius* through the designation of a neotype and the designation of Sierra Leone as the Type Locality. The name *melas* Condamin, 1965 becomes a junior synonym of *B. martius* **syn. nov.**

Bicyclus butterflies

Just as I was beginning to take a scientific interest in African butterflies, Condamin (1965) replaced the name *Bicyclus martius* Fabricius, 1793 with *M. sanaos* Hewitson, 1866. Though this decision was based on an erroneous interpretation of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, it has been treated as thus since then, even in the most authoritative works (Ackery *et al.* 1995, Williams 2002). The purpose of this note is to reinstate the Fabrician name of this common and widespread African forest butterfly, the Black Bush Brown.

Condamin based his decision on two facts: first, the holotype of *Papilio martius* Fabricius did not exist, and second it was therefore impossible to decide to which of two subspecies the name *martius* belonged, especially as it had no locality. Both these premises are true, but the problem cannot be solved as he did simply by relegating the Fabrician name to oblivion as a *nomen nudum* without referring the matter to the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature.

Though the type is lost, *B. martius* was well illustrated in "*Jones' Icones*", an illustrated catalogue of many Fabricius types; indeed Condamin was not in doubt that *Papilio martius* illustrated one of the two subspecies of what he considered as *B. sanaos*. When the holotype is missing, the only valid route to solve such an issue seems to be the selection of a neotype.

The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature has a number of recommendations, one of which is that the neotype should be from as close to the original locality as possible. Most of Fabricius' African material was from Sierra Leone, South Africa, or Mauritius. *Bicyclus martius* is common in Sierra Leone and a specimen from here is selected as neotype. The correct nomenclature of *M. martius* thus becomes:

Bicyclus martius Fabricius, 1793

Papilio martius, Entom. Syst. 3, 1:219

Type locality: Sierra Leone (**male neotype here designated**, in Natural History Museum, London).

Bicyclus martius martius Fabricius, 1793

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone (TL), Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana including Volta Region, Togo, western Nigeria.

Bicyclus martius sanaos Hewitson, 1866

Mycalesis sanaos, Exotic butterflies, III:94

Type locality: Nigeria, Old Calabar (male holotype in Natural History Museum, London)

= *Bicyclus sanaos melas* Condamin, 1965 **syn. nov.**

Bull. I.F.A.N., XXVII:1439-1448.

Type locality: Côte d'Ivoire, Abidjan

Distribution: eastern Nigeria (Cross River loop) to most of the equatorial forest zone.

The differences between the two subspecies are mainly these: The male of ssp. *martius* has the inner androconial hair pencil beige; it is black in ssp. *sanaos*. The female of ssp. *martius* is uniformly dark brown above; in ssp. *sanaos* there is a prominent white subapical band. Specimens between the Niger and the Cross River loop in eastern Nigeria may be somewhat intermediate.

References

Ackery, P. R., Smith, C. R. & Vane-Wright, R. I., 1995. *Carcasson's African Butterflies*. CSIRO Australia.

Condamin, M., 1965. Mises au point de synonymie et descriptions de nouveaux Bicyclus (Lepidoptera Satyridae). *Bulletin de l'IFAN* **XXVII**, Ser. A: 1439-1448.

Williams, M. C., 2002. *Butterflies and skippers of the Afrotropical Region*. CD-ROM. South Africa.

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Request for British examples of allegedly Japanese species

During the late 18th century, Carl Peter Thunberg stayed in Japan and published two booklets, *Fauna Japonica* and *Fauna Japonica Continuata*, in which over a hundred insect species were reported from Japan. One of the problems I have is that most species described by those earlier scientists are in fact not actually found in Japan. I am, therefore, looking for examples of these non-Japanese species in an attempt to establish what species Thunberg had really observed during his stay in Japan. The list of *desiderata* is as follows:

Coleoptera: *Paederus riparius, Staphylinus erythropterus, Potosia aeruginosa, Hister unicolor, Epuraea aestiva, Ptinus fur, Buprestis rustica, Palorus depressus, Corticeus bicolor, Corticeus fraxini, Exochomus quadripustulatus, Mordella aculeata, Phyllotreta nemorum, Lochmaea capreae, Cassida nobilis.*

Lepidoptera: *Sphinx atropos, Antitype chi, Elophila nymphaeata, Eulithis prunata, Scopula immutata, Tortrix viridana.*

Diptera: *Sarcophaga carnaria, Psila fimetaria, Scioptera vibrans, Sepsis cynipsea, Haematopota pluvialis, Melanostoma mellinum, Psychola phalaenoides.*

Hymenoptera: *Ancistrocerus parietum, Liris niger, Sirex cyaneus.*

Odonata: *Calopteryx virgo, Coenagrion puella.*

Orthopteroidea: *Macroscytus brunneus, Blatta orientalis, Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa.*

If you have specimens of these insects and are able to provide to me one or two examples of each, I will be most grateful.– HIDEO OGAI, Nariki-build. No. 301, 2-7-27, Tabata, Kita-ku, Tokyo, 114-0014 JAPAN.